



Dr. Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai
(1963-1971)



At the age of 7.

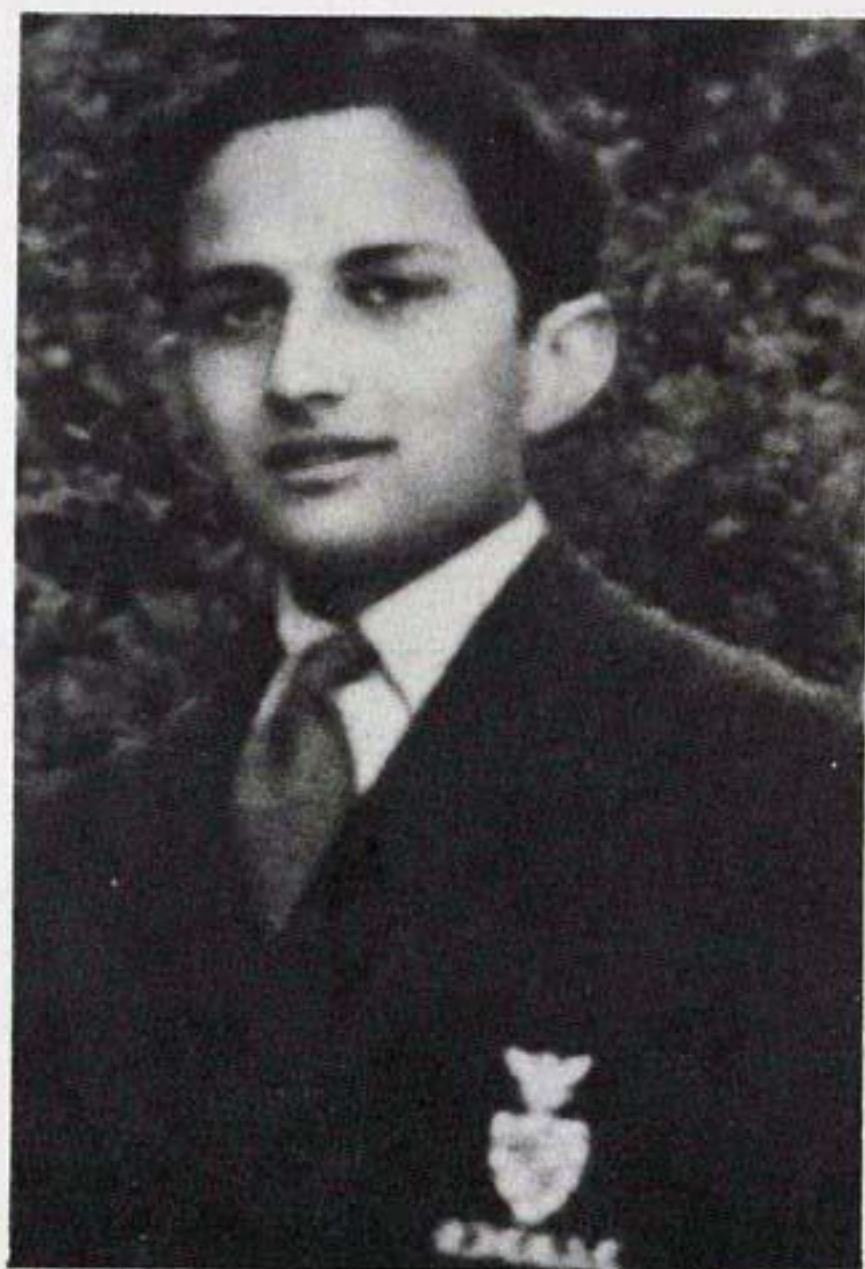
Rabindranath Tagore was something of a phrenologist too. When young Vikram was presented to him, he intently looked at his physiognomy and expression, and the shape of his head, and quietly remarked to the parents that in future he would become a celebrity.

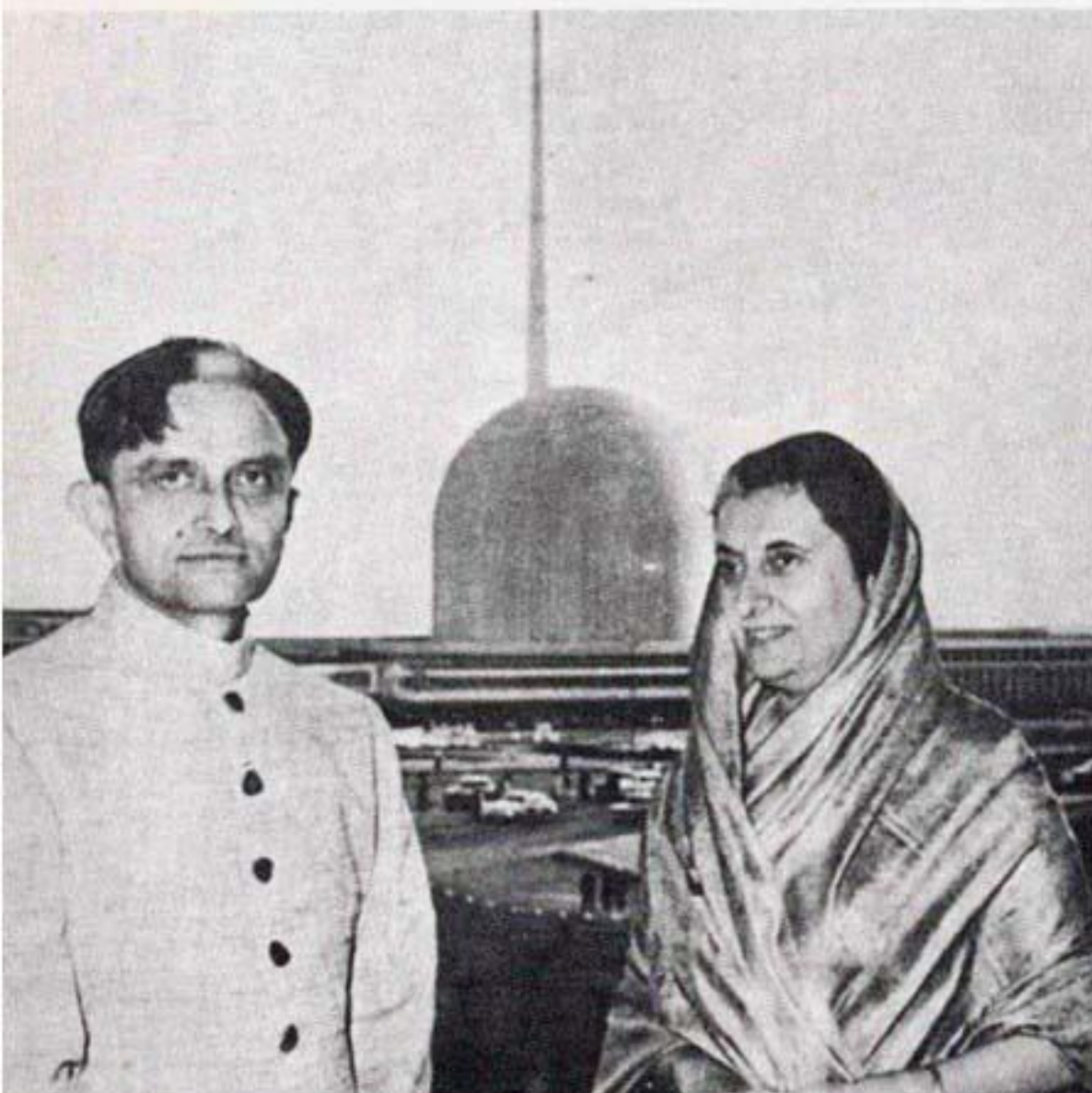


As a student at the
Indian Institute of Sciences,
Bangalore, 1942.

As a student at St. John's
College, Cambridge, U.K.

As a student in U.K.



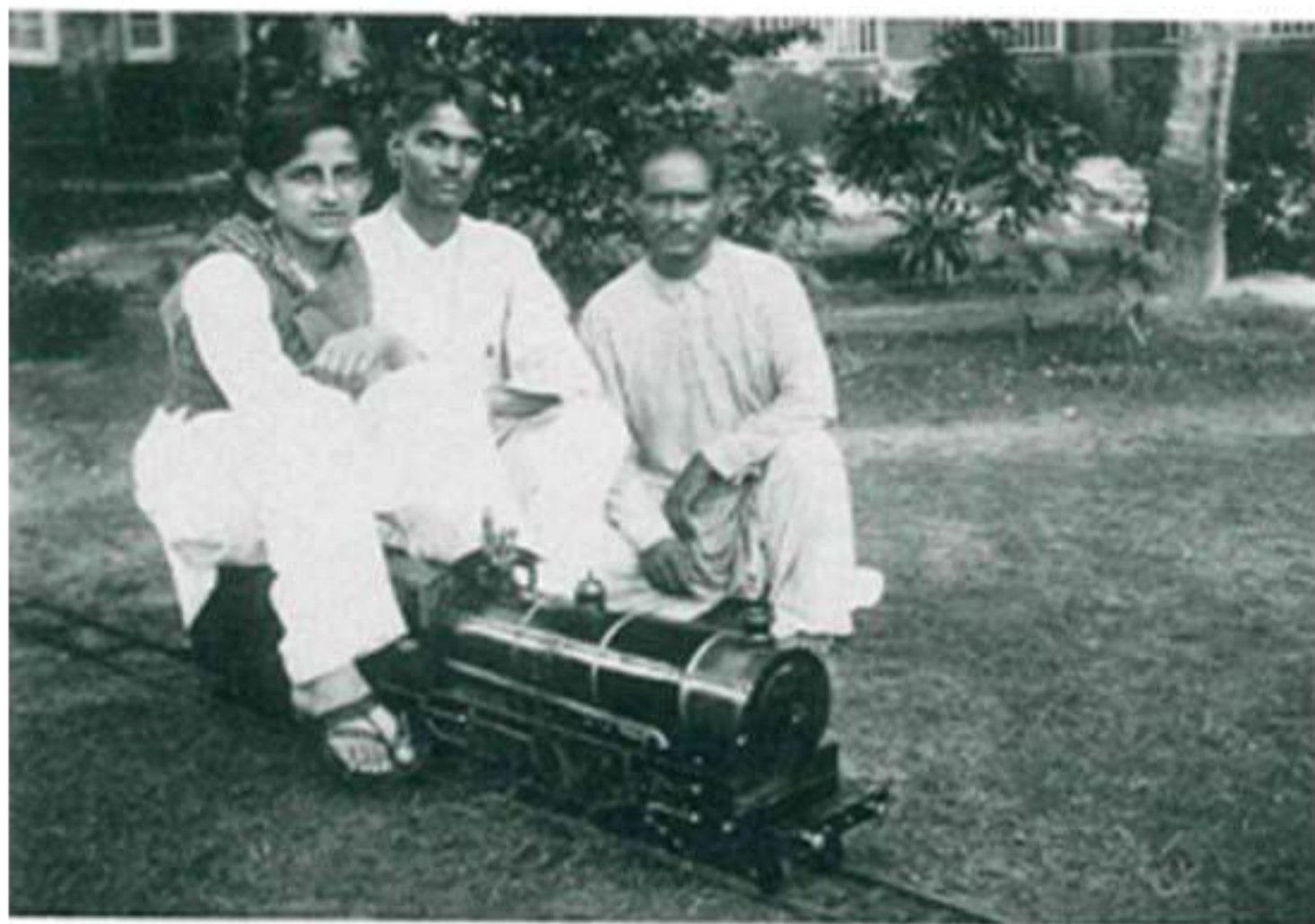


As Chairman, Indian National Committee for Space Research, speaking at the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station, Trivandrum, on the occasion of its dedication to the UN by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 1968.

As Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, with the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Bombay, 1967.



Ambalal and Sarla with Vikram and Gita



Vikram with the toy engine he made



The Sarabhais with Rabindranath Tagore, 1920

Uttarayan
Santiniketan, Bengal
 November 1, 1935.

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the application for admission of Mr. Vikram Sarabhai to the authorities of the Cambridge University. He is a young man with keen interest in Science and I am sure, a course of study at Cambridge will be of immense value to him. I know him personally and his people. He comes of a wealthy and cultured family in the Bombay Presidency and he has a brother and a sister studying at Oxford at the moment. In my judgment, he is a fit and proper person for admission to the University.

Rabindranath Tagore

Tagore's letter recommending Vikram's application for admission to Cambridge

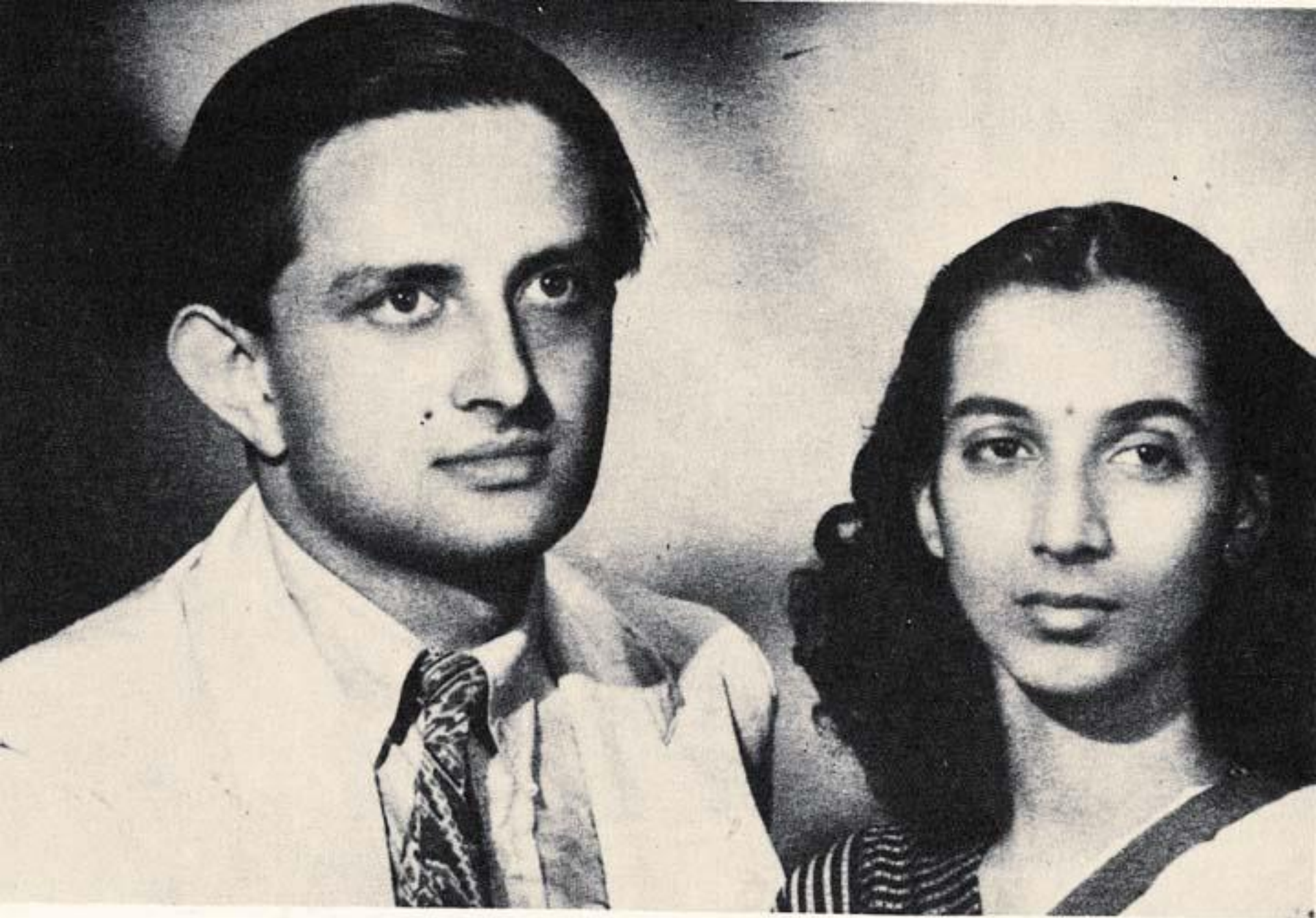


With the President, V.V. Giri.

With his mother Sarladevi and Sir C.V. Raman, at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Community Science Centre Ahmedabad, 1968.



With Sir C.V. Raman, the Nobel Laureate, who was Vikram Sarabhai's guide, at the Indian Institute of Sciences, Bangalore from 1940 to 1945.

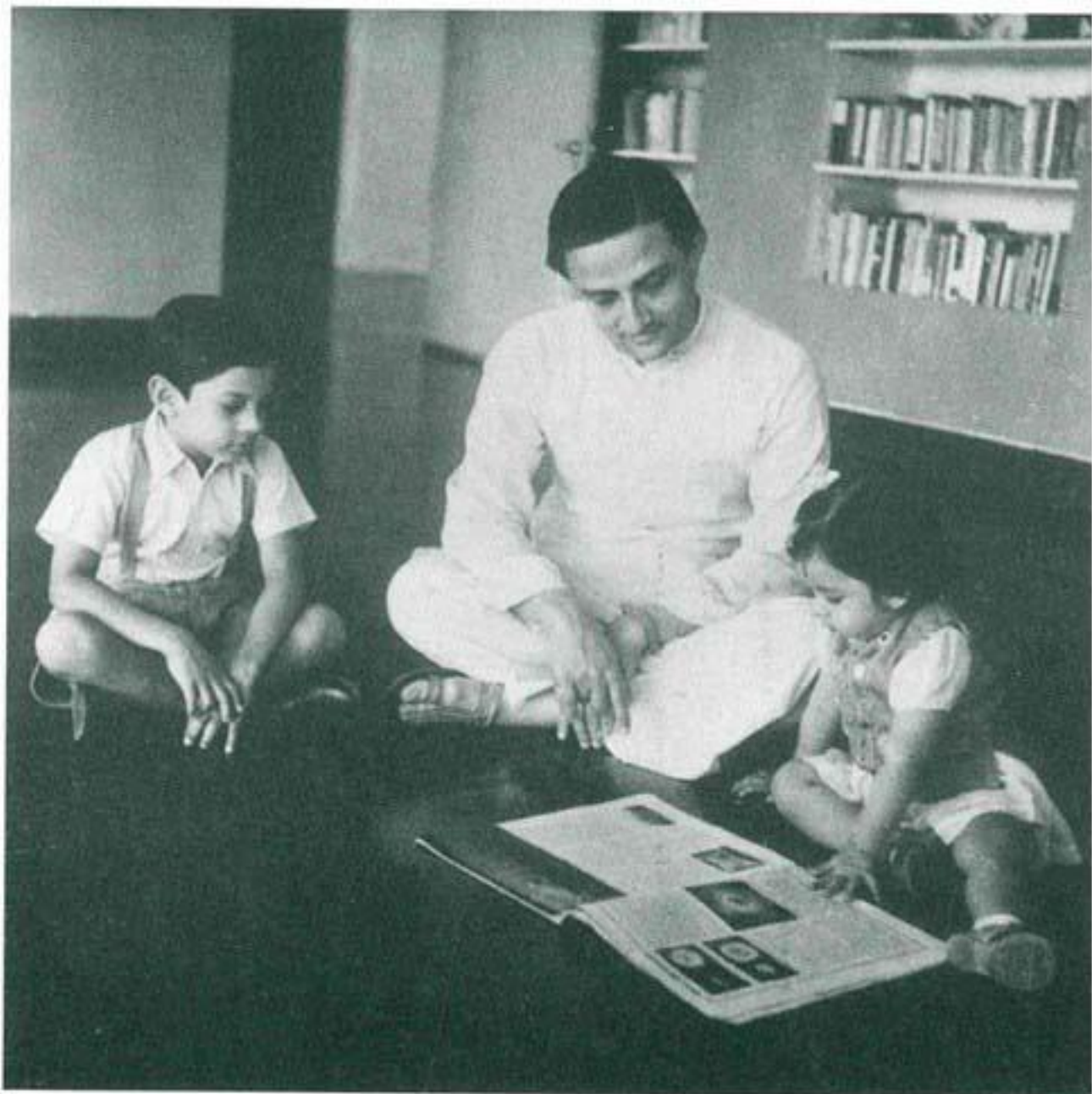


With his wife Mrinalini.

Mrinalini and Vikram Sarabhai
at their wedding, 1942.



Vikram and Mrinalini with the children



Vikram with his children: In Mrinalini's absence he was an attentive single parent



With mentors and friends: from left to right, S.S. Bhatnagar, Homi Bhabha and C.V. Raman



A strong faith in international collaboration: Vikram with P.M.S. Blackett (front row, right), C.F. Powell (second row, left) and Homi Bhabha



Sarabhai in a discussion with Homi J Baba, his mentor



Some builders of modern India. Homi J Bhabha (glass in one hand with the other on the table), showing Jawaharlal Nehru (extreme left), the first Prime Minister of independent India, the model of the TIFR (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research) building. To Nehru's left is SS Bhatnagar, the first Director General of CSIR Laboratories. To Bhabha's left is Morarji Desai who became the Prime Minister in 1977. Between Bhabha and Desai, in the background, is MC Chagla, the eminent jurist and diplomat.



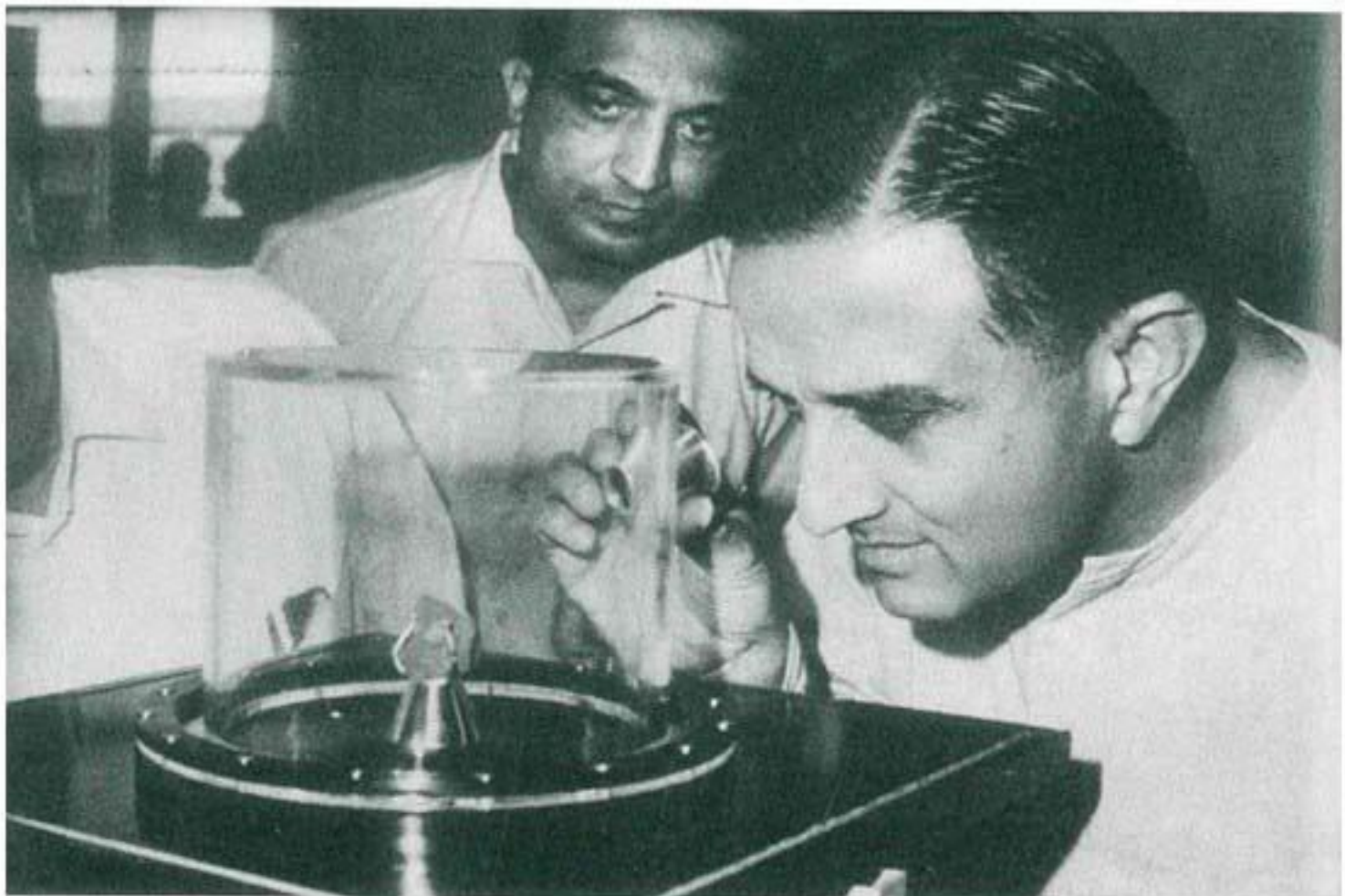
The St Mary Magdalene church in Thumba. The Indian space programme was literally born in this church; its origins can be traced to the 16th century.



As early as 1962, Sarabhai had sent some young engineers to NASA for training. This 'Class of '62' comprised (from left): R Aravamudan, APJ Abdul Kalam, HGS Murthy, B Ramakrishna Rao and D Easwaradas. Missing from this photograph of the 'Class' are PP Kale and AS Prakasa Rao.



'First the education of the senses': Vikram with Pandit Ravi Shankar



Vikram and Praful Bhavsar examining a sample of a moon rock



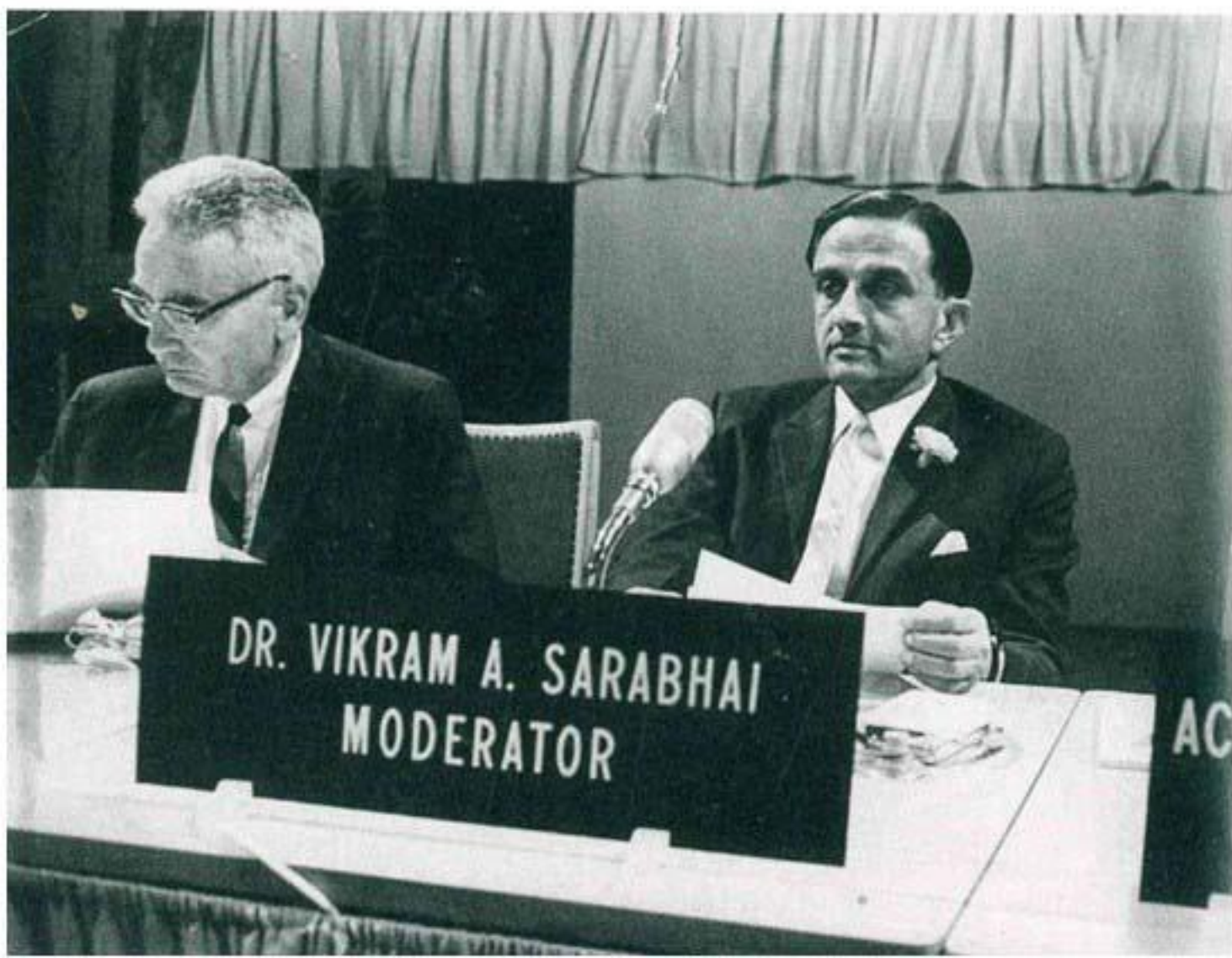
Vikram wanted to use television as a medium of development: here he is seen with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at the *Krishi Darshan* Programme, New Delhi, 1967



With Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at CIRUS, 1967



As President, International Atomic Energy Agency Conference, Vienna, 1970





With American astronaut Neil Armstrong at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai



Vikram with Dr Kurt Waldheim, President of the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1968) and later Secretary General of the United Nations, and his wife